

THE Organized FARMER

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No. 15

FU & CDA SUCCESS STORY HEARD BY POLICY COUNCIL

Alberta Medical Program Success- or Failure?

By Bill Harper, F.U.A. Radio Commentator

In a recent television report Premier Manning discussed Alberta's prepaid subsidized Medical Services Insurance Program. I think this is the first time I have heard it called by that name, and it is certainly a more accurate title than some of the ones the Government has used in the past. About a year ago, it was referred to as the Alberta Medical Plan, which led people to believe that the province of Alberta had a medical plan. This of course is not so.

Under the Alberta program, the Government takes no responsibility whatever for seeing that people get medical treatment when they need it. All the Government does is give some help to some people, to pay part of the premiums, if and when those people decide to take out a medical contract with M.S.I. or some other company.

The Provincial Government does have an agreement with the medical profession, under which doctors are paid for the professional help they give to pensioners. Over 64,000 people are covered under this agreement, but it has nothing to do with the Alberta Medical Services Insurance program. This aid to pensioners was in effect long before that program was ever heard of.

The Alberta programs provides that if a married couple have 2 or more children, and pay no income tax, the Government will pay half of their medical contract, or \$72.00 per year. The people have to pay the other half. If the couple pay income tax, on less than \$500.00, the Government pays one quarter of the health insurance premium, or \$36.00 per year. If the taxable income is over \$500.00, the Government pays nothing. The Premier said . . . "the provision of medical services is properly an individual responsibility." It seems to me that it would be equally true to say that the provision of education for our children is also an individual responsibility. But it has been found that the best way to do this is to build schools to serve a number of families, rather than having each family send their children to some school of their own choice, and be forced to foot the bill.

We accept the fact that we build community roads, streets, playgrounds, post offices, schools and many other social needs. We have a lot of community hospitals also. Why not community health service? It works for many other essential services. Why not for health? If the majority want to discharge their individual responsibility by obtaining medical services as a group, surely, they have this right. And let's not have any more nonsense about forcing people into doing things. We force them to send their children to school, to pay school taxes, to cut the weeds on the roadside, to put stamps on their letters, and so on. It is no more unreasonable

or undemocratic to force them to take out a medical contract.

We have over 1½ million people in Alberta. The Premier said that over 1 million of them are covered by some form of health insurance. This means that almost 350,000 or 1 person out of every 4 is not covered, and I suggest that this is a very long way from satisfactory. The Government estimated that about 425,000 Albertans were eligible for help under the plan. Only 157,000 have asked for help, not much over ½. There may be many reasons for this. Many people are no doubt just careless — they have not bothered. But undoubtedly, many of them find that it is not easy to dig up \$72.00 per year, when they are getting such low wages that they don't have to pay income tax. And yet these are the people who need protection—who can't afford heavy hospital or medical bills.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in its Newsletter of last August said, "Alberta launched its medical care insurance program on June 25, with unqualified support from both doctors and insurance companies." I am sure that this is true, but it seems to me that the whole point is being missed. Should Alberta's Subsidized Medical Services Insurance Program be set up to please the doctors and the insurance companies? It should, in part. But what about setting it up so that it gets the unqualified support of the 1½ million Albertans who are potential patients? Should this not be the purpose of all medical health plans? I think it should.

If this is so than Alberta's plan is by no means filling the need. It leaves ¼ of our people without health insurance, which is a serious situation in this day of high medical, hospital and drug costs. And it has so little appeal that almost ½ of the people who could use it have not bothered to join.

In my judgement, the Alberta prepaid medical subsidized Insurance program has most of the earmarks of a flop.

MEMBERS IN DISTRICTS 4 - 5 - 6

You Have A Date

During this week, nine F.U.A. Districts will have held their annual meetings. Dates and places were published earlier in The Organized Farmer. Reports from these meetings will be appearing on these pages soon.

Next week, the last three of this series of meetings will be held, in the Stony Plain Community Centre on June 22 (for District 5), The Chateleine Cafe in Vegreville June 23 (for District 6) and in the St. Paul Legion Hall June 25 (for District 4).

F.U.A. President Paul Babey will speak at each of these remaining three meetings. Also, representatives from the F.W.U.A. executive, and the Jr. F.U.A. executive will address the delegates.

Real progress in rural leadership development is being charted by the Farmers Union and Co-operative Development Association.

these groups working in committees, or with other organizations in a rural community, are very effective in solving local problems.

She cited as examples two different County Teams which succeeded in interesting the Alberta Department of Agriculture in the need for additional District Agriculturalists in their areas.

The Director emphasized that the actions of the County Teams involved a great many people, "in itself an accomplishment." She also pointed to the value of a series of 16 local leadership training courses held during the past year. Leadership development is one of the major aims of the Teams. This tends to strengthen other community organizations, as well as those involved in FU & CDA.

It has taken five years to develop the program to its present level. Presently, plans call for establishing more of these teams. However, it will take time to complete this organizational program.

It has been shown that the County Team approach to local rural problems is effective. One major achievement of the "Team" idea has been to show that people from different organizations, in

spite of special interests, can and do work together when given an opportunity.

F.U.A. Staff Member Weds

It is with great pleasure that we announce the marriage of F.U.A. staff member Miss Gloria Domski, formerly of Newbrook, to Mr. Nicholas Fedyniak of Delph. The wedding took place on May 30, 1964, at 12:30 p.m., in St. Josaphat's Cathedral, Edmonton. The marriage vows were performed in Ukrainian.

Miss Domski's floor length gown of net lace over taffeta, was accented by her finger-tip veil and bouquet of red artificial roses. Of special interest, a live fern was placed in the bouquet by Mrs. Fedyniak, mother of the groom, to symbolize the wish for a long and prosperous life. The bride's three attendants were dressed in semi-formal gowns of lime green nylon chiffon over taffeta. Mrs. Domski, mother of the groom, wore a grey cotton-knit suit with orange accessories, and Mrs. Fedyniak, mother of the groom, wore a grey floral print dress and white accessories.

At the well attended reception held later in Delph, parents of the bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Domski and Mr. and Mrs. Fedyniak, welcomed the newly wed couple to the reception in the traditional manner, by serving them wine and bread. All joined in to wish Nick and Gloria "Health and Happiness." Then the band struck up a waltz, and still in keeping with tradition, the bride and groom had the first dance around the hall before sitting down to supper, which featured several Ukrainian dishes.

F.U.A. President and Mrs. Paul Babey attended the reception, as did several members of the F.U.A. staff.

Mr. and Mrs. Fedyniak will reside in Edmonton where both are employed. Mrs. Fedyniak will remain on the F.U.A. staff.

Teen Camps Deadline Near

A series of four, week-long "Teen Camps" for rural Alberta young people will be staged at the Junior F.U.A. Camp Gold Eye during July.

Camp Gold Eye is situated 110 miles west of Red Deer, beside compact, jewel like Gold Eye Lake in the Clearwater Forest Reserve. The camp features inspiring scenery, and complete recreational facilities.

The "Teen Camp" idea, initiated two years ago by the Farmers' Union and Co-operative Development Association, has proven very popular. Last year, more than 200 young people participated in the program.

Each six-day teen camp provides the young person attending with practical experience in community organization and citizenship, co-operation, leadership, and recreation. About sixty people, aged 16 to 21 years will attend each camp. Staff is supplied by F.U. & C.D.A. Total cost per participant is \$25.00.

The theme of the camp is "As young adults, let's discuss our role in today's society."

Young people wishing to attend one of these camps should contact F.U. & C.D.A., 9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, without delay. All applications must be in by June 24.



W. J. HARPER

Mr. F. T. Jenner, President of the Board of Directors of Medical Services (Alberta) Incorporated, announces the election of Mr. W. J. Harper to the Board representing Members at Large. He is a graduate in Agriculture of the University of Alberta, growing up and receiving his early education in Claresholm. He has farmed, instructed in Animal Husbandry at the Provincial School of Agriculture, and has had experience in various municipal and co-operative bodies. Since 1958 he has been employed by the Farmers' Union of Alberta as a radio commentator and assistant editor of The Organized Farmer.

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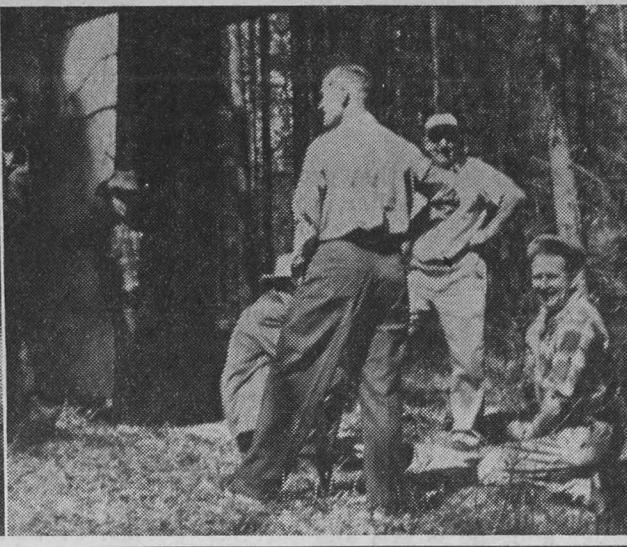
NEWS FLASHES

The FWUA Executive met June 10th to discuss plans for their FWUA Board Meeting July 16 and 17. If your local has suggestions for the Annual Convention or for the 1965 Program Book please send them to Central Office or your FWUA District Director.

* * *

The FWUA decided to continue with the Citizenship Seminar at the Gold Eye Lake Junior FUA Camp and our Citizenship Committee recommended that we en-

FARMERS' DAY FLASHBACK—(Left) On June 12th, 1959, onlookers at the Gold Eye Camp Site saw Hon. A. J. Hooke turn the first sod for development work which has given us our present fine facilities there. (Right) Leaning on their shovels, Bill Harper, Frank Kisko, Del McCorkle, and others unidentified, survey their handiwork on the first edifice built at the site—a public convenience.



courage applications from students of as many racial and cultural backgrounds as possible. Students must have completed their grade XI or equivalent and be 21 years of age or under. Send applications to the FUA Office.

The camp will be held August 9-15th with Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. James and Citizenship Department and Indian Affairs Department personnel in attendance.

We hope your local will sponsor a student or make a donation to

help sponsor one, since this was the first camp of this type in Canada the FWUA are most anxious to make it a success. This requires the support of all our locals.

* * *

Thank you for your many donations to the Dr. Irene Parlby Scholarship Fund. Awards were made to the Vermilion and Olds Schools for this year. Fairview has not yet selected a winner.

* * *

Farm Women's Week will be held at Olds July 13-16. Send your applications to: The Principal, Olds School of Agriculture, Olds, as early as you can.

* * *

The Junior Annual Meeting will be held at the Gold Eye Lake Junior FUA Camp July 2-3. We hope you have made arrangements to send the Junior members from your local.

GRADUATE CAMP

AUGUST 2-8 — F.U. & C.D.A. Graduate Camp. Approximately 40 persons, including staff.
AUGUST 9-15 — F.W.U.A. Citizenship Seminar. Approximately 34 persons, including staff.
AUGUST 16-22 — Junior 4-H Leaders' Camp. Approximately 65 persons, including staff.

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DEPOTS FROM THE RED TO THE PEACE

• RETURN THESE ENTRY FORMS IMMEDIATELY •

Here again, as sort of a last call, we insert the entry form for the "Junior Farm Leader of the Year Awards." Entries will be accepted for at least another week (until June 26). If your local intends to sponsor a deserving young person from your area, this form should be sent in as quickly as possible.

At the same time, juniors should not overlook the other, smaller form. Whether sponsored or not, they should not overlook the Junior Convention at Gold Eye Camp, a valuable experience for all who attend.

JR. F.U.A. ANNUAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

I will attend the Jr. F.U.A. Convention at Gold Eye Lake on July 2-3.

Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

Please check..... I will be sponsored by
a local. (Local No.....)

ENTRY FORM

Junior Farm Leader of the Year

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss) _____

Address _____

Local No. _____

Age _____

(age limit 18-27)

Marital status _____

Years lived on farm _____

Member of the F.U.A. since _____

Father's name _____

Community activities _____

Sports you participate in _____

Letter of recommendation from minister or teacher must accompany this entry.

Secretary of sponsoring local _____

Address _____

INDIA - F.W.U.A. COUNTRY FOR STUDY

This is my second paper on India, and for further study, I would emphasize rural work, the training and equipping of the Indian people to help themselves, and the role of Indian women.

In spite of the fact that Agriculture is India's biggest industry, the food supplies for 438 million people fall far short of the needs.

Several nation-wide plans are underway, designed to lift the level of living in rural communities, to improve agricultural methods and to increase food resources.

One plan is the Community Development Projects to help 70% of India's population living in 560,000 villages. It is a program of self-help, the Indian Government offering only technical guidance and financial assistance.

In the planning of this vast program, the Church played a significant role through the extension department of the Allahabad Agricultural Institute, a co-operative Christian Institution for research and education in agriculture. Many students are studying at the Institute for degrees in Agronomy, Horticulture, Dairying,

Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Engineering. When trained they are making their contribution toward development of the country, as leaders in their respective fields.

Other aims of the Community Projects are to foster primary education; public health and recreation; to improve housing; and to promote indigenous handicrafts and small scale industries. For example: The Malwa Wood Producers, after training under skilled leadership, registered in a co-operative society and now carry on their own business. There are co-operative societies of all types in India today. The co-op movement has extended from its chief function of providing credit to include marketing, processing, warehousing, etc.

The "Bhoodam" movement, started by Vinobha Bhave, "the

walking saint", has a moral appeal and insists that the principle of giving must apply to all realms of human activity. Bhave says:— In a just and equitable society, land must belong to all. Hundreds of thousands of acres have already been distributed to thousands of landless families.

The same kind of idealism is seen in the national program called "basic education", inspired by the "Father of the Nation", Mahatma Gandhi. It aims at service, self-respect and respect for others. Pupils "learn through activity"—weaving, carpentry, gardening, etc. The church's mission in education continues today at all levels too. It is expected that by 1970 more than 70% of Indian children aged 6 to 11 years will be in primary schools with free education.

Religion affects the eating habits in India, where the majority of the people are Hindu and do not eat any meat. They regard the cow as sacred and cow slaughter is banned. Other animals and birds enjoy similar protection and India's 60 million monkeys claim their share of food. Wheat, rice, vegetables and milk are the staple foods.

The caste system in India is a social rather than a religious phenomenon, though the effects of the system are to be seen in religion. With the coming of industry, higher education and the greater mobility of the people, the caste system is undergoing marked change, and is being modified all the time, but it is a deeply ingrained social pattern that will remain a dominant force for some time.

A few years ago, Indian Women had nothing to say in Public Affairs. Now they have the franchise and participate freely in elections. It is said that there are more women in public life in India than in any other country. Gandhi's call to the women of the nation had unforeseen consequences. Today there are many women leaders of India's public life. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, daughter of Nehru and many others hold important posts in the government of India. One of the world's greatest women, Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, sister of Nehru, presided over the United Nations in 1953-54.

Madame Pandit believes that in North America many women lack interest in public affairs. She made the following comment: Each country has its own concept of women. In India the emphasis is on what you do, in America and the west generally it is how you look and what you wear.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since this article was submitted, we have witnessed the passing of Pandit Nehru, one of the world's great figures, from the world scene. Nevertheless, it would be impossible to revise this article in any way, in spite of the fact that a new Prime Minister has taken the reins in India. Indeed, Mr. Shastri, who succeeds the late Prime Minister, would be the first to say that the stamp of this great man on the nation he led for so many years is deep and indelible. So, the article stands, just as Mrs. James submitted it. Mr. Nehru has to be its central figure.

F.W.U.A. HI-LIGHTS

- **Rosalind-805**, district conference held at Rosalind with this local catering. Rosalind local sent cheque for \$10 to Oakhill Boys' Ranch at Bon Accord. Also, \$10 sent in to the Dr. Irene Parlby Scholarship Fund.

- **Heath-704**. Mrs. W. C. Taylor was guest speaker at the May meeting. She showed a selection of slides.

- **Battle River-701**. Donations were made to a family who lost their home and entire contents, and to the Crippled Children's Fund at the May meeting held at Mrs. Van Hyfte's home. Sixteen members and two visitors were present.

- **H-H Four Point-1012**. Surprise party meeting at Mrs. Neuman Sr. in Red Deer. Garden Club plans completed—seeds distributed to 12 members. Penhold 4-H Rally catering proved successful.

- **Marwayne-716**. Mrs. C. James and Bill Harper were speakers at the conference in Marwayne June 4th.

- **Pelican-707** met at Mrs. Holland's. Reported that local cleared \$59.85 at a district sale, by serving lunch.

- **Stapledene-713** will sponsor someone to the Farm Young People's Week at the university.

- **Brooks-1302**. The passing away of long-time member Mrs. A. T. Johnson was noted.

- For the past two or three months, this local has been reviewing the comments made during the Farm Organization Panel at the Calgary F.W.U.A. Convention. When this study is completed, the local plans to make a complete study of the Report on Farm Organization by A. W. Platt, L. D. Nesbitt, and Senator Cameron.

- **West Wind-1217** met in the home of Mrs. McIntee. Presented spoons to the two top girls at the 4-H achievement day. The local decided to make a quilt to raise money, and to make a scrap-book collection of pictures etc of the group at special occasions.

- **Sydenham-Gerald-710**. May meeting at the home of Mrs. Clara Berg. Moved that \$30 be used to sponsor someone to Farm Young People's Week.

- **Poplar Ridge-710**. Mr. Clifford Hills of Red Deer won the quilt raffle which was drawn for at the May meeting held at the home of Mrs. Millar.

- **Drumheller East-1111** has decided to sponsor a student to the Gold Eye Camp this summer.

- **Sunny Hills-1112** — served lunch to the Sub-district F.W.U.A. Conference May 27 in the Sunbeam Community Centre.

- **Gwynne-918**. Mrs. Ruth Carlson will represent the local at the District 9 Convention on June 19. A \$5.00 donation to the Canadian Mental Health Association was made.

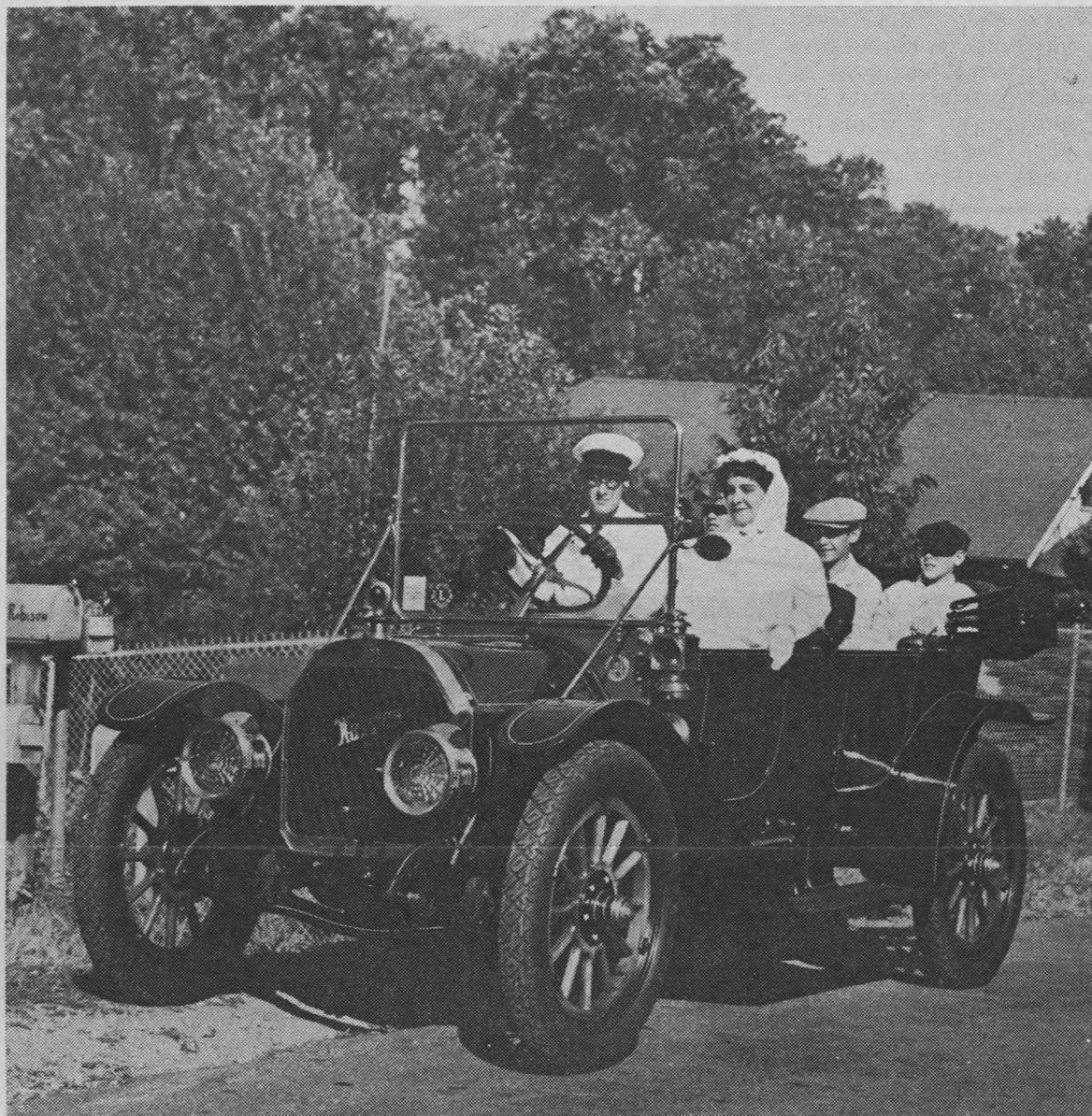
- **Griffen Creek-202** joined with Kerndale F.W.U.A. for a joint Farmers' Day picnic and dance—divided the work and split the profits. Program for the day included children's races, ball games, bingo, etc. Dance was in the Griffen Creek Hall in the evening. Free ice cream and pop for the kiddies.

- **Jefferson-1401**. Thirty dollars was made at the recent bake sale held by this local.

- **Egremont-407**. As a joint effort with the F.U.A. local, this local again helped stage the annual Farmers' Day Dance. Named two delegates to the District 4 Convention June 25.

- **Wild Rose-1108**. Members answered the roll call with plans for Farmers' Day. Most planned to attend the 4-H achievement day. A delegate was selected for the district convention.

- **Fairview-201**. Members plan to sponsor two young persons to attend the Fairview Teen Camp which will be held at the Fairview Community College from July 13 to 18.



Those were the days that were . . .

Those were the days when many important changes were taking place on the Alberta scene . . . the odors of oil and gasoline marked the passage of the first horseless carriages over the rutted trails which so lately had accommodated the Red River Carts . . . farming operations, too, were becoming mechanized . . . and the signs of a great future were clearly to be seen. With these changes came the beginnings of an idea which eventually resulted in the UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE as we know it today . . . an active and growing organization with a membership of 50,000 . . . operated BY farmers FOR farmers to the benefit of the entire Province.



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More Trade Part Of Answer -- Babey

"The outlook for Alberta farmers is considerably brighter with the recent improvement in moisture conditions," comments Paul Babey, FUA President. "The early May rains have assured most farmers in the province of sufficient moisture for proper germination." "However, even with this optimistic outlook," Mr. Babey continued, "Farmers are aware that all agricultural problems are not solved with a good rain. The problem remains of selling what we produce. The FUA looks forward to increased world trade, including grain sales, to help solve this greater problem.

June 15, 1964

THE ORGANIZED FARMER

AS I SEE IT

by Dr. F. Waldo Walsh

F. Waldo Walsh is the recently retired Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, presently Director, Co-operative Advisory Services in the Maritimes. He writes a column, "AS I SEE IT" for the Maritime Co-operator.

In January, 1963, Doug Curtis, leading farmer and co-operator of Truro, presented a Resolution to the annual meeting of the N.S. Federation of Agriculture. This Resolution called for a study and some promotion by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in connection with hog quality improvement in Canada.

The Resolution followed through the traditional channels, was passed by the Maritime Federation of Agriculture and finally accepted by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at their annual meeting in Windsor, Ontario, later that month—January, 1963.

The Canadian Federation's Ottawa Office accepted the instructions seriously and within three months established a National Committee to implement the instructions of the Resolution.

The Committee was made up of representatives from practically each hog-producing province in Canada and at the first meeting at Ottawa, in March 1963, it was suggested that provincial or regional meetings should be held.

The Maritime Provinces acted as region and met in Moncton in June. This meeting was well attended by some seventy hog growers and among other recommendations the suggestion was put forward that the Ottawa government select a team of officials to study the latest developments in producing and marketing hogs in European countries.

At the time of the first meeting, it was expected that a national conference would be called in October. However, due to delay in regional meetings, in some provinces, this was not organized.

National Conference

A meeting was finally called and took place in Montreal on April 28th and 29th of this year. I have just returned from this gathering and I was very much impressed with the procedure.

First of all, it was extremely well organized. Each of the participating delegates and the observers (mainly Department of Agriculture livestock officials) had received documents of approximately 200 pages which tabulated the history and development of hog production, marketing and grading in Canada and other countries.

The conference was attended by some 70 delegates and almost an equal number of observers. For two days an intensive program was conducted under the keen leadership of Jim Bentley, president of Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Hog Improvement Council

It was finally concluded that in the program on Wednesday afternoon, that an attempt should be made to establish a Canadian Hog Improvement Council or Associa-

CLASSIFIED SECTION

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FARM MACHINERY

Write for FREE details and qualifications on our Farmer-Agents plan. Smith-Roles, Saskatoon.

Anti-Collective-Marketing

There was very little in the way of disharmony although it was quite obvious from the beginning that Alberta (a vocal few from that province) was determined to break up the conference.

Apparently their major concern was that of marketing. For some unknown reason — possibly ignorance — they wanted to establish the fact that farmers are outstanding individualists and do not want to be part of any centralized marketing scheme.

It is true that marketing was not the major discussion but these people from Alberta wanted to make sure that we retain all the individuality of their present system which allows for special producers to make special deals with special buyers.

A very fine looking young man by the name of Sten Berg, and his man Friday, S. A. Price, led the attack. While their impact was fairly impotent, they never gave up. Mr. Berg, to me, was most attractive and I certainly would like to know him better. I would be happy to have him as a son — in fact, I have three sons who don't

look unlike him. But, for some unknown reason, he is bugged with this anti-collective-marketing mania.

For two days I sat idly by and listened but, late on the morning of the second day, I couldn't stand it any longer, and I got up to state what I thought were the facts on hog marketing. Half-way through my talk I decided I wouldn't say anything too much to this attractive, misguided young man.

Just to prove I must be losing my progressive spirit, I met him in the hall later on and apologized for what I had said when, in reality, I had not mentioned a quarter of what I should have. I hope that Mr. Berg and his associates will realize before too long that their attitude — if they succeed — may cause an injustice to hog growers in all parts of Canada.

I make this statement realizing that they had lunch at least one day with the top executives of the Canadian Meat Packers' Council, I sincerely trust that their attitude is in no way controlled or motivated by their friends of that luncheon.

Read That Again?

The following three paragraphs were taken from a recent issue of one of our Alberta dailies. We wonder if the writer really knew what he was thinking about.

Perhaps the biggest reason for an increase in acreage is due to the fact that rapeseed is on the open market with no quota restrictions. Whatever is grown can be sold as soon as there is space to deliver it to country elevators.

The no quota factor on any commodity, grain or seed crops in particular, is attractive to farmers. After years of restricting quotas on wheat and other grains, it appears good to be able to grow a crop which can be sold without asking how much of it can be delivered for sale.

However, rapeseed is subject to delivery quota regulations under the Canadian Wheat Board, and if it were to present difficulties at country elevators, and a restriction of wheat deliveries, a quota might be placed on rape-seed.

And, that is the way I see it.

—from The Maritime Co-operator.

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